

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's	)	
Amateur Radio Service Rules to Eliminate	)	RM - 10786
Morse Code Proficiency Testing Requirements	)	
For All Classes of Amateur Licenses	)	
	)	
To: The Commission	)	

**Comments Of Brian Rhea Dews – KD7PEH**

Although, Morse code holds a place in the history and future of the Amateur radio services, its time as a necessary means of transmission have long expired.

The use of Morse communications are still enjoyed by a number of Amateur operators, however, it is virtually non existent in any other government, commercial or maritime communications. For this reason, the requirement for Morse code proficiency for Amateur radio operators no longer serves its originally intended purpose of ensure a pool of technically proficient radio operators available to support national/international disasters and emergencies.

The requirement for demonstrated Morse code proficiency has, and will continue to, proved to be a deterrent for new, otherwise technically proficient, persons to enter into the ranks of the Amateur radio operators. This has resulted in a "graying" of Amateur radio that will eventually lead to its extinction. The younger generation, are extremely technically proficient in electronics and digital communications methods and means; however many find the requirement demonstrate a proficiency in Morse code in order to become a Amateur radio operator, the equivalent of being required to demonstrate a proficiency in operating a horse drawn carriage in order to get a driver's license. Certainly there is a historical connection, and there are still horse drawn carriages being driven today, but is the skill relevant and necessary in today's modern world?

With the IARU's recent change in rules concerning the requirement for Morse code proficiency, and the sweeping rule changes being made by the radio services governing bodies of the world. The continuation of the requirement for US Amateurs would place these individuals at a unnecessary disadvantage compared to equally qualified operators from other countries.

I fully support the NCI Petition for Rule Making and respectfully request that the Commission enact the changes outlined within in the most expeditious manner possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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